



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30333

April 23, 2019

Mackenzie Farkus  
MuckRock  
DEPT MR 70343  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, Massachusetts 02144-2516  
Via email: [70343-94121730@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:70343-94121730@requests.muckrock.com)

Dear Ms. Farkus:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of March 11, 2019, to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), for:

Materials from 2016 onward related to the water contamination at Camp Lejeune and its subsequent health effects on those currently or formerly stationed at Camp Lejeune. Potential documents include but are not limited to correspondences containing the keywords “illness,” “water contamination,” and “disability benefits,” reports concerning levels of current water contamination at Camp Lejeune, and brochures/pamphlets/booklets given to those impacted by Camp Lejeune’s water contamination.

Your request was referred to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) by HHS for our direct response to you because the subject of your request pertains to CDC records. Your request was assigned #HQ-REF-19-00011.

On April 18, 2019, you narrowed your request to the following:

...emails from 2016 onward related to the water contamination at Camp Lejeune and its subsequent health effects on those currently or formerly stationed at Camp Lejeune. Please conduct this search using the keywords “Camp Lejeune,” “Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune,” “Janey Ensminger Act,” and “Ensminger Act” in the inboxes of ATSDR Public Health Advisor Carl Blair and Health Scientist Leann Bing, as well as HHS Secretary Alex M. Azar II, Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA) Judy Stecker, Director, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) Roger Severino.

The portion of your request referring to HHS employees will be referred to HHS for their action, as the information you requested falls under their jurisdiction. Should you have questions about the status of that portion of your request, you may contact:

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)  
Freedom of Information Officer

Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 729H  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201  
Email: [FOIARequest@hhs.gov](mailto:FOIARequest@hhs.gov)

### **Extension of Time**

To ensure the most equitable treatment possible of all requesters, the CDC processes requests on a first-in, first-out basis, using a multiple track system based upon the estimated time it will take to process a request. Based on your description of the records you are seeking, your request has been placed in the complex track. We will be unable to comply with the twenty-working-day time limit in this case, as well as the ten additional days provided by the statute because we expect that we will have to:

- ☒ Search for and collect records from field facilities, archives, or locations other than the office processing the request.
- ☒ Search for, collect, or examine a great many records in response to a single request.
- ☐ Consult with another office or agency that has substantial interest in the determination of the request.
- ☐ Conduct negotiations with submitters and requesters of information to determine the nature and extent of non-disclosable proprietary materials.

In an effort to process your request promptly, you may wish to further narrow the scope of your request to limit the volume of potentially responsive records. If you have any questions or wish to discuss reformulation or an alternative time frame for the processing of your request, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at 770-488-6277. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Services (OGIS) to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services; National Archives and Records Administration; 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS; College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

### **Fee Category**

The FOIA and HHS FOI regulations allow agencies to recover part of the costs of processing FOIA requests. There may be a charge for these records. You have been classified as a News Media Requester and as such, you will not be charged fees unless you elect to receive any responsive records in hard copy (10 cents/page).

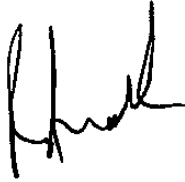
The cut-off date for your request will be the date the search for responsive records is initiated by program staff.

You may check on the status of your case by going to our FOIA webpage at [www2a.cdc.gov/od/foiastatus](http://www2a.cdc.gov/od/foiastatus) and entering this number. If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact Emerique Magyar at 770-488-6359.

We reasonably anticipate that you should receive documents by October 20, 2019. Please know that this date roughly estimates how long it will take the agency to close requests ahead of your

request in the queue and complete work on your request. The actual date of completion might be before or after this estimated date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Andoh', with a stylized, cursive script.

Roger Andoh  
CDC/ATSDR FOIA Officer  
Office of the Chief Operating Officer  
(770) 488-6399  
Fax: (404) 235-1852

HQ-REF-19-00011